



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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April 7, 2014

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To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", written over a horizontal line.

### SACRAMENTO UPDATE

#### Executive Summary

This memorandum contains a report on the following:

- **Pursuit of County Position on State Budget Items.** The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) is pursuing budget proposals to provide increased State funding in FY 2014-15 for child welfare agencies to serve victims of commercial sexual exploitation and to support child welfare worker training; support foster parent recruitment and retention; and increased training for Adult Protection Services (APS) social workers. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with the Board action to support CWDA's budget proposal for increased funding for child welfare worker training for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and consistent with existing policies to support proposals that develop or enhance programs and services for child sex trafficking victims; support proposals to increase foster care resources and ensure professionalizing foster parenting; and support proposals to increase funding for the APS Program, **the Sacramento advocates will support CWDA's budget proposals to provide increased funding for: 1) child welfare agencies to serve victims of commercial sexual exploitation and support child welfare worker training; 2) support for foster parent recruitment and retention; and 3) increased training for APS social workers.**

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*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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### **Pursuit of County Position on State Budget Items**

The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) is pursuing budget proposals described below to provide increased funding in FY 2014-15 for child welfare agencies to serve victims of commercial sexual exploitation and support child welfare worker training; support foster parent recruitment and retention; and increased training for Adult Protection Services (APS) social workers.

### **Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Budget Proposal**

This budget proposal would increase funding support to enable county child welfare agencies to serve child victims of commercial sexual exploitation by providing \$40.6 million in FY 2014-15, including \$20.3 million in State General Fund (SGF), and \$28.5 million (\$14.3 million in SGF) thereafter. In addition, this funding would support child welfare worker training, staffing in the most affected urban counties, partnership with survivors, and systems coordination.

The County Welfare Directors Association indicates that currently California's child welfare system is ill-equipped to respond to the needs to protect and serve victims of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Three of the nation's top thirteen high intensity child prostitution areas are located in California (Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego); however, victims of commercial sex trafficking are seen throughout the State.

Specifically, the proposed funding would provide training for all child welfare workers, foster caregivers (foster homes and group homes), and youth to recognize the signs of sexual exploitation and trauma, determine if a youth is at risk for commercial sexual exploitation, train on strategies and offer tools to avoid victimization. The funding would also support collaborative and integrated efforts, and direct services for these children.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) recognizes the critical role child welfare has in the prevention and intervention of CSEC and the challenges it faces due to limited resources. According to DCFS, this proposal to increase CSEC funding is a major step in enabling county child welfare agencies to serve these child victims through social worker, foster parent and service provider training, staffing, added resources and coordination with other county agencies and community providers.

This proposal is supported by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC); Urban Counties Caucus (UCC); The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking; Children's Law Center of Los Angeles; Alliance of Children's Rights; Children NOW; California Alliance of Child and Family Services; and the Service Employees Union International (SEIU); among others. There is no known opposition at this time.

## **Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Budget Proposal**

This budget proposal would increase support for foster parent recruitment and retention by a total of \$13.5 million (\$6.75 million in SGF). Additionally, this funding would provide direct support to foster children placed with kin caregivers and foster parents.

Under Federal and State law, counties are mandated to first consider placement with a relative before a child is placed into foster care due to abuse and neglect. Currently, only \$3.1 million in total funds is available statewide for kin caregiver and county licensed foster parent support. According to CWDA, dedicated funding for the recruitment, retention and support for foster parents is woefully inadequate and has been stagnant for over a decade. Research shows that increased support for relatives and foster caregivers can improve outcomes for children in the foster care system.

The Department of Children and Family Services indicates that relative caregivers and foster parents perform a vital role in the lives of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. These caregivers provide stable and nurturing environments for these children often without adequate resources. According to DCFS, this budget proposal would provide much needed funding for foster parent recruitment along with direct support services for both foster parents and relative caregivers.

This proposal is supported by CSAC; UCC; Alliance of Children's Rights; California State Foster Parent Association; Children NOW; and SEIU; among others. There is no known opposition at this time.

## **Adult Protective Services Training Budget Proposal**

This budget proposal would increase support statewide for training under the APS Program at a cost of \$1.25 million in SGF and would increase training days from 5 days to 12 days per new social worker to ensure that new workers can complete their induction training. This funding would also support curriculum development and training for supervisors, and advanced training for APS staff.

The Adult Protective Services Program is a 24-hour program mandated by the State to receive reports and investigate the suspected abuse and neglect of elderly and dependent adults. This program was realigned to counties in 2011; however, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) retains program oversight, regulatory and policy making responsibilities, including training. Currently, only \$154,000 in SGF is allocated to CDSS for APS training statewide and funding has not been increased in the past nine years.

The County Welfare Directors Association indicates that the current funding level is insufficient to meet the needs of all 58 counties for training new social work staff, advanced training for seasoned workers, specialized training for APS supervisors, and new curricula to address emerging trends and legislative mandates.

The Department of Community and Senior Services (CSS) indicates that an increase in training funds would benefit the Department's APS Program by providing training to approximately 147 social workers. According to CSS, APS program staff would further acquire a working knowledge of law, policy, and practice issues which would enhance their basic skills in receiving and evaluating reports, and in planning and intervention services for abused, neglected or exploited disabled adults who are found to be in need of protective services.

This proposal is supported by CSAC; UCC; California Association of Area Agencies on Aging; California Legislative Council for Older Americans; California Ombudsman Association; National Adult Protective Services Association; National Senior Citizens Law Center; National Association of Social Workers-California Chapter; American Association of Retired Persons; and SEIU; among others. There is no known opposition at this time.

There are no further details about the above budget proposals at this time; however, further information is expected to be released as these proposals are scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No.1 on Health and Human Services on April 9, 2014.

## **Conclusion**

This office and the Departments of Children and Family Services and Community and Senior Services support CWDA's budget proposals to provide increased funding for child welfare agencies to serve victims of CSEC and support child welfare worker training, foster parent recruitment and retention, and APS social worker training.

Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with the Board action to support CWDA's budget proposal for increased funding for child welfare worker training for CSEC, and consistent with existing policies to support proposals that develop or enhance programs and services for victims of child sex trafficking; support proposals to increase foster care resources and ensure professionalizing foster parenting; and support proposals to increase funding for the APS Program to enable counties to ensure the safety and protection of abused and neglected elders and dependent, **the Sacramento advocates**

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**will support CWDA's budget proposals to provide increased funding for: 1) child welfare agencies to serve child victims of commercial sexual exploitation and support child welfare worker training; 2) support for foster parent recruitment and retention; and 3) increased training for APS social workers.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:OR:lm

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist